

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2617
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018

NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY

2617. ADV. JOICE GEORGE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) at Kerala -Tamil Nadu border and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there has been any protest against the installation of the said observatory and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any court intervention against the setting up of INO and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study pertaining to health hazards associated with the said project and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH):

- (a) Yes Sir, at Bodi West Hills in the Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
- (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the residents in Pottipuram seem to be against INO because of misinformation spread by activists about the harm caused by neutrinos and tunneling causing damage to Mullaiperiyar dam 40 kms away.
- (c) Yes Sir. On 26.03.2015, the Hon'ble Madras High Court, Madurai Bench passed an interim order, on PIL filed by Mr. Vaiko, to commence the research work after obtaining necessary clearance from Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. On the Appeal filed by Mr. Sundarrajan against the environment clearance granted by Ministry of Environment and Forest to Institute of Mathematical Sciences, the National Green Tribunal passed an Order dated 20.03.2017 stating that the project proponent (INO) Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc) to make proper application to the Regulatory Authority for

expeditious consideration on merits and till that time the Environment clearance is kept in abeyance. The order also mentioned the need for National Board of Wildlife clearance.

After National Green Tribunal (NGT) order, Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has now informed INO to submit a fresh application after obtaining fresh Environment Clearance.

- (d) Yes Sir, a Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON),Coimbatore) and Environment Management Planning (EMP) as part of the Detailed Project Report (by the then Tamil Nadu Electricity Board) was done and presented to the Ministry of Environment and Forest before obtaining the Environment Clearance in 2011.
